



“Mighty oaks from little acorns grow”

Our children join us as “little acorns” and through the teaching and modelling of our vision, values and aims by all members of our school community, our children leave us as “mighty oaks”, equipped with the transferable skills to continue their journey of life-long learning.

Message from the Head

Ofsted Report

We are pleased to share that our most recent Ofsted report is now available. The inspection provided valuable insights, and we are proud of the feedback received. Please see the link to our Ofsted report here: [The Duchy School Bradninch - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

Message from the Chair of Governors (Molly Southwood)

As you are all aware, the school was visited by Ofsted a few weeks ago. I was invited to be part of the inspection and was impressed with the professionalism and compassion of the inspectors, as well as the dedication, energy and resilience of the staff, throughout the two-day process.

I hope you have had a chance to read the report and join me in feeling a deep sense of pride of being part of this wonderful school community where "pupils thrive academically, socially and emotionally." Thank you to the many, many parents who completed the survey and helped to demonstrate the commitment we, as parents, have to making our school "exceptional."

On behalf of the governors, I would like to express my thanks and warmest congratulations to Mr Roberts, whose passion and dynamism has brought so much value to the school. Under his leadership we have seen myriad positive changes, and I am delighted Ofsted have formally recognised this in their report. Our gratitude is also extended to the rest of the staff, in particular the senior leadership team, Mrs Dunning, Miss Sampson and Mrs Prior, who are also rightly commended in the report.

Well done to Ofsted for confirming what we have, of course, always known - that the Duchy School is a wonderful place to be a child.

Staff Training

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to one of our parents (Michelle Ledbetter) who recently delivered a fantastic training session to our staff on using micro: bits in the classroom. Her expertise and generosity with her time are greatly appreciated and will help enhance our computing curriculum and inspire our pupils to get creative with technology!

Finally, on behalf of everyone at The Duchy School, I would like to wish all students, parents and our local communities, a very happy half-term break. We look forward to seeing you again on **Tuesday 3rd June.**

Duchy Mile



Earlier today, the children came together to support each other in walking, jogging and/or running a mile around the local area to the school. We will update you after half term once we have the total amount raised from the PTFA which will be donated to Children's Hospice South West and Cancer Research UK (Children's Cancer) in memory of Riley in Year 2. Thank you to all who came to support the event!

Celebrations

Values Champion				Learning Champion		
	09.05.25	16.05.25			09.05.25	16.05.25
Reception	Oscar	Beatrice		Reception	Ossian	Rudy
Year 1	Arlo	Viktor		Year 1	Poppy	Maci
Year 2	Joshua	Bessy		Year 2	Kimmy	Toby
Year 3	Lexie	Isla		Year 3	Theo W	Olive
Year 4	Lily R	Solomon		Year 4	Katy	Alfred
Year 5	Casper	Theodore		Year 5	Joey	James
Year 6	Luuk	All of Y6		Year 6	Oliver	All of Y6

We have also celebrated these fantastic recent achievements!

Year 1	Florence	Rainbow Distance 15m and 20m in swimming
Year 2	Lily	STAnley 7 Award in swimming
Year 2	Elsie-Mei	Level 3 Learn to Swim
Year 3	Marcus	STAnley 2 Award in swimming and for taking part in the Alphabet Hunt`
Year 3	Betsy	1 st place on floor, 2 nd place on vault and 4 th place altogether in a gymnastics competition for Whirlwinds Academy
Year 4	Elijah	Learn to Swim Level 3

Our fortnight in photos

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
 <p>We have been reading Oi Frog this week and enjoying learning the rhyming pairs. We used our phonics to help us write rhyming captions to match pictures from the book.</p>	 <p>In English, we performed parts of the book 'Stanley's Stick'. Everyone joined in to tell the whole story through 9 mini sections.</p>	 <p>In science, we worked with Reception class to find habitats and microhabitats around our school grounds and identify the minibeasts living there.</p>
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
 <p>In science, we have been re-potting our radish plants. We have also been learning about the importance of plant 'roots' and their function.</p>	 <p>In PE, we have been practicing our throwing skills, focusing on both accuracy and distance.</p>	 <p>In art, we have been creating art in the style of William Morris, famous for naturalistic wallpapers, stained glass windows and repeating patterns during the Industrial Revolution.</p>
Year 6		
		
<p>In the week beginning the 12th May, our year 6 children took their SATs tests in reading, maths, grammar and spelling. We are incredibly proud of how they prepared for these tests and the fantastic tenacity that they showed during the week. As part of their celebration to end the week, year 6 took part in a football match against the staff and also had a morning of archery and Danish long ball with Premier Sport.</p>		

Trips and Sports Update

EYFS Seaton Wetlands



On Thursday 22nd May, Reception visited the Seaton Wetland Centre. We were met by Penny who showed us around and led some engaging sessions linking to our topic this half term of nature and mini beasts. We enjoyed pond dipping and found baby newts as well as dragonfly larvae. We used big fabric nets to swish through the grass and collect insects to then look at closely in pots. We also completed some nature scavenger challenges. Reception were fantastic and demonstrated great curiosity about the natural world as well as being respectful to Penny, other members of the public and to the insects and creatures we found.

Year 1 Killerton



Year 1 really enjoyed their trip to the Killerton grounds at Caddihoe. We explored the forest in the rain, made Andy Goldsworthy inspired sculptures, built tiny shelters for animals and climbed trees. After a wet start collecting sticks and leaves from the forest, the children thoroughly enjoyed their lunch in the sun and the afternoon activities. Big thanks to Adam from the National Trust and our parent volunteers.

Y3 Rosemoor



On Thursday 8th May, Year 3 went to Rosemoor Gardens as part of our science topic. We had just started our 'plants' topic and learnt all about germination and seed dispersal. The children had a practical experience where they explored different types of gardens. They also planted some radish seeds and lettuces, that they took back to school. We will continue to monitor our plants over the next few weeks as part of an investigation all about what plants need to survive.

Year 5 Coldharbour Mill



On Tuesday 20th May, Year 5 visited Coldharbour Mill in Uffculme to see one of the oldest working woollen mills in the UK. The children experienced factory conditions and what life was like as child during the Industrial Revolution. Thank you to all children, whose behaviour was impeccable throughout the day. Well done Year 5!

Y3/4 v Uffculme Primary School



On Wednesday 7th May, the year 3 and 4 football team travelled to Uffculme Primary School for their final league fixture of the season. In unseasonably warm conditions, and on a smaller pitch than the team were used to playing on, the team quickly found their rhythm moving the ball around fanastically. This high tempo continued for the duration, with the match eventually finishing 11-1 to Duchy. Thank you to all those who travelled children to the fixture, and for cheering on the team. With qualification now secured, we will see you all again at the finals soon!

Wilcombe Wobbler



After successful trials in school, on Wednesday 21st May, 16 children from across Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 competed in the annual Wilcombe Wobbler cross-country event – a chance for our runners to compete competitively against other schools in our Trust. All of our children once again did the Duchy School proud, demonstrating our school values of tenacity and ambition, with several runners finishing in the Top-20. Congratulations, especially, to the Year 5/6 Boys who came 1st overall. Well done Team Duchy!

Key Dates

Please regularly check and review the Diary Dates section of the newsletter; we will be updating with details of further trips, events and activities as and when they are confirmed.

Term	Commences	Finishes
Autumn	5 th September 2024	20 th December 2024
Spring	6 th January 2025	4 th April 2025
Summer	22 nd April 2025	23 rd July 2025

26 th – 30 th May	Half Term
2 nd June	Non-Pupil Day (school closed)
2 nd June – 13 th June	Y4 Multiplication Tables Checks (MTC – 2 week window)
4 th June	Y6 Surfing Trip
W/c 9 th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Week
11 th /12 th June	Y4 Residential to Wildwood Escot (1 night)
13 th June	Parent Forum
17 th June	Y5 sea swimming trip to Exmouth
19 th June	Sports Day
26 th June	Reserve Sports Day
7 th July	Y2 trip to Exeter Cathedral (<i>communication to follow</i>)
10 th July	Eco Club trip to Exeter Energy for Waste
11 th July	PTFA event (Summer Fayre)
15 th July	Y5/6 Afternoon Performance
16 th July	Y5/6 Evening Performance
17 th July	Reception Parents' Welcome Meeting (9.15am)
18 th July	Y6 Homework reward trip to Crealy (<i>communication to follow</i>)
22 nd July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30 am (Parents)
23 rd July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly (whole school)
23 rd July	Last day of term

In the Community

ALL GIRLS SESSIONS
Come & give it a go!
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
1ST SESSION FREE
GIRLS BASKETBALL CONTACT: CHANNALEIGH@GMAIL.COM
STEVE'S CONTACT: 07740 267047
STEPHEN GREENWOOD@THEWINDY.COM

MIXED BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
1ST SESSION FREE
MIXED BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL CONTACT: STEPHEN GREENWOOD@THEWINDY.COM
STEVE'S CONTACT: 07740 267047

COMING AND JOIN OUR COMMUNITY BASKETBALL CLUB THURSDAY NIGHTS 17.30 - 19.00
U12S (YRS 4-7)
U14S (YRS 7-9)
U16S (YRS 10-11)

BEGINNING OF THE SEASON THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Here to help with energy advice

We know the school holidays can be an expensive time.
Our dedicated energy team can run through tips to help you cut your bills, check your entitlement for benefits or see if you can claim any grants.
If you're on a prepayment meter, we might also be able to issue you with vouchers to keep you topped up over the holidays.

01237 879233
www.citizensadvicectnmwd.org.uk/energyadvice

citizens advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon

FIZZ POP SCIENCE
Experiment! Discover! Inspire!

Our After School Programmes are designed to inspire our children into gaining an interest in the Sciences. Our workshops are a mixture of exciting demonstrations and thought provoking hands on experiments and tasks.

It's the force of course!
HOW ATTRACTIVE!
Attracted to Science? If not you soon will be! With our truly magnificent magnets, you will create force fields, electromagnets and go fishing!

HAIR RAISING ELECTRONS!
Get ready for some hair-raising action! Explore electrical properties and the role of electricity as a natural phenomenon, whilst creating lightning in your classroom.

FORCES FROM THE CIRCUIT!
Can you defy the forces of gravity and keep you balance? Our spinning gyroscopes can. Then try your skills at spinning plates as we find out more about this spinning force. And laughs galore as you explore your centre of gravity.

TOY TIME SCIENCE!
Energy is everywhere, transforming all the time. Brace yourself as we travel back in time and use classic toys to investigate the science of motion!

EGG TORNADO!
Captain Scramble and Lieutenant Yolkal need you to help them land on a new planet. However so far there has been nothing but disaster. Can you help?

REWARD DAY!
We hope you have enjoyed finding out about the interesting world around us. This session you will be rewarded with a certificate and special gift.

Terms and Conditions - Refunds can only be given for cancellations made seven days prior to programme commencing. Any cancellations not made within this period will be charged £5.00 administration fee. No reimbursements will be given for any child asked to leave the programme due to bad behaviour. Refunds can not be given for children missing sessions. Programmes may change without prior notice, although all efforts are made to make sure they are not affected.
TEXT CONFIRMATION WILL BE MADE AFTER DEADLINE DATES OR EMAIL IF NO MOBILE NUMBER.

Online Sign Up Only
Visit our website...
WWW.FIZZPOPSCIENCE.CO.UK
...and click on the 'Cloud' to sign up!

We are unable to accept children from Reception classes only Year 1 to Year 6
Further Terms and Conditions, our Data Protection and Privacy Policy can be found on our website.
Please visit www.fizzpopscience.co.uk/school-clubs/ for full details.

WWW.FIZZPOPSCIENCE.CO.UK
Fizz Pop Science South West
01278 448 602
email: taunton-exeter@fizzpopscience.co.uk

School: The Duchy School Bradninch
Day: Thursday 15:40 - 16:40
Time: 15:40 - 16:40
Dates: 05/06 12/06 19/06 26/06 03/07
Costing: £49.00

*Coming up at St Disen's Church Bradninch
Summer Term 2025 and beyond*

*June 1st 10.30am in St Disen's Hall
All Age Café Church
WORSHIP PRAYER COMMUNITY FOOD AND FUN
FRESH THOUGHT PROVOKING
FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES*

*June 7th Bradninch Music Festival festival Praise on Bradninch
cricket pitch 10.30am
Festival Praise*


*June 15th 10.30am in St Disen's Hall
Café Church
WORSHIP COMMUNITY FOOD AND FUN*

*June 27-29 SPREE WESTPOINT
<https://swym.org.uk/spree-sw/new-to-spree/>*

Spree [South West](#) is the ultimate summer weekend festival for young people aged 8 to 17 - all about fun, community and transformation. With multiple venues for all ages, Spree is an awesome weekend for young people to build strong friendships and explore Christian faith together. This year we will be taking a group of children and young people from Bradninch to Spree with St Andrew's Church Cullompton. There are games, sports, rides, crafts and competitions and more.

If you have a young person you think would enjoy and benefit from Spree do speak to Hazel Britton - curate@stdisens.org.uk You can book using the following link: [booking link](#) If finance is a problem do speak to Hazel

*Sunday July 6th Kidzone Celebration All Age Service
Age appropriate Christian books will be gifted to every child and
young person present and all children who have attended
Kidzone at Duchy through this academic year and all children
and young people connected to St Disen's Church
FUN FRESH THOUGHT PROVOKING
FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES
PRAYER WORSHIP
Refreshments before and after in St Disen's Hall*



RECEPTION 2025 MEET-UP SESSION

We would like to invite you to come along to Bear Town for a Reception Class meet-up.


A wonderful chance for September 2025 Reception Class children to play and meet their new class mates to be, and for the parents to meet each other too!

We would love you to join us for the session which will be held on the selected date from 12:15pm - 2:15pm. For just £7.95 for a child (aged 1-7 years) and adult. Any additional adults are just £2.

Visit our website to book your place and we hope to welcome you to Bear Town Exeter soon!

If you need any further information please just drop us an email hello@beartown.co.uk.

WWW.BEARTOWN.CO.UK



RECEPTION 2025 MEET-UP SESSIONS JUNE

Tuesday 3rd - St. Andrews
Wednesday 4th - Willand
Thursday 5th - Willowbank
Monday 9th - Halberton
Tuesday 10th - Broadclyst
Friday 13th - Westclyst
Monday 16th - Pinhoe
Tuesday 17th - Monkerton
Thursday 19th - Willowbrook
Monday 23rd - Duchy
Tuesday 24th - Westhill



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone

We're on a mission to

01. Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones and social media in childhood

02. Empower parents to wait to get their kids a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9, through signing up to the Parent Pact in their region

03. Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

Why we're doing this now

We've been put in an impossible position by the tech companies. It's a lose lose - either allow our children access to something all the evidence tells us is damaging, or say no and risk alienating them among their peers at a crucial stage of their social development. **We believe something needs to change, and it starts with all of us.**

How you can get involved

Sign the Parent Pact - Join the growing movement of parents choosing to delay - It takes 30 seconds parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Join your WhatsApp community - Find solidarity, support and inspiration - we have one in every county in Britain whatsapp.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Help build the movement - Volunteer to be a Regional Leader and start making change in your community regionalleaders@group.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

Sign up to our newsletter - Get the latest news and campaign updates from SFC HQ smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/newsletter

Follow us on Instagram/LinkedIn
[@smartphonefreechildhood](https://www.instagram.com/smartphonefreechildhood)
[smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/smartphonefreechildhood)



Scan to sign the Parent Pact
parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

#CHANGETHENORM